

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A minimally invasive surgical instrument comprising:
2 an elongate shaft having a working end and a shaft axis;
3 at least one linking arm having a proximal end and a distal end, the
4 proximal end being pivotally mounted on the working end of the shaft to rotate around a
5 first pitch axis which is nonparallel to the shaft axis;
6 a wrist member having a proximal portion pivotally connected to the distal
7 end of the linking arm to rotate around a second pitch axis which is nonparallel to the
8 shaft axis; and
9 an end effector pivotally mounted on a distal portion of the wrist member
10 to rotate around a wrist axis of the wrist member, the wrist axis extending between the
11 proximal portion and the distal portion of the wrist member.